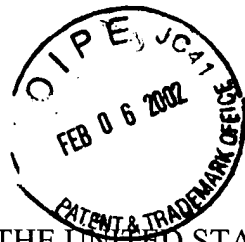


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Toshiki KINDO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2165

Appl. No. : 09/985,736

Examiner:

Filed : November 6, 2001

For : E-COMMERCE SYSTEM AND METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Technology Center 2100

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-171450, which was published on June 30, 1997, along with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-288683, which was published on November 4, 1997, along with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 17 of the specification of the instant application;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-143900, which was published on May 28, 1999, along with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2000-132559, which was published on May 12, 2000, along with an English language Abstract of the same; and

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2000-132618, which was published on May 12, 2000, along with an English language Abstract of the same.

P21671.A01

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached hereto and are listed on a PTO-1449 Form, which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

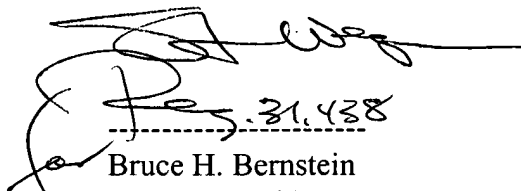
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/738,771 to KINDO et al., entitled "Electronic Commerce System and Method", which was filed on December 18, 2000.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to review the file wrapper of the U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

February 6, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Respectfully submitted,
Toshiki KINDO et al.



Reg. No. 29,027

Form PTO-1449						U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office						Atty. Docket No. P21671						Serial No. 09/985,736											
<div style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)</div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 10px; left: 10px; border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; transform: rotate(-45deg); width: fit-content;"><div style="transform: rotate(45deg);">O I P E J C 4 1</div><div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);">FEB 06 2002</div><div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; position: absolute; right: -10px; bottom: -10px;">OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE</div></div>												Applicant T. KINDO et al.																	
												Filing Date November 6, 2001						Group 2165											
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS																													
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER										DATE		NAME						CLASS		SUBCLASS		FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS																													
		DOCUMENT NUMBER										DATE		COUNTRY						CLASS		SUBCLASS		TRANSLATION YES NO					
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)																													
		1	An English Language abstract of JP 9-171450.																										
		2	An English Language abstract of JP 9-288683.																										
		3	An English Language abstract of JP 11-143900.																										
		4	An English Language abstract of JP 2000-132559.																										
		5	An English Language abstract of JP 2000-132618.																										
EXAMINER												DATE CONSIDERED																	
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.																													